

<b>Committee(s):</b> Police Authority Board	<b>Dated:</b> 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2023
<b>Subject:</b> Independent Advisory Scrutiny Group- Review of arrangements	<b>Public</b>
<b>Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?</b>	1- People are safe and feel safe
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>If so, how much?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Commissioner of Police Pol 43-23	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Kam Dhaliwall, Equality & Inclusion Manager, Professionalism and Trust Team, T/Chief Superintendent Sanjay Andersen, Head of Professionalism and Trust Team	

### Summary

This report provides an update regarding the Independent Advisory Scrutiny Group which was requested by the Police Authority Board at a previous meeting,

### Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that Members note the report.

## **Main Report**

### **Background**

1. The Independent Advisory Scrutiny Group (IASG) is a strategic group that seeks to improve two-way communications between the police service and the diverse communities it serves. The IASG is made up of community members who are independent from the police, and volunteer for the role. As independent advisors and critical friends, the overarching role of the group is to offer advice on the community impact of police activity. They help to resolve policing problems and advise on proposed operations, building public confidence, improving local policing performance and accountability. It is best practice to consult with the IASG before policies and procedures are implemented.
2. The IASG was formed in December 2019, by amalgamating the Police Independent Advisory Group (IAG) and a Police Community Scrutiny Group (CSG), to form one Group, the Independent Advisory Scrutiny Group (IASG). In December 2022, members of the Police Authority Board (PAB) met with members of the IASG to learn about the IASG role. The feedback from the meeting was shared with the Chief Officers Team, where some recommendations were made on how to move forward. An update was requested by the Police Authority Board (PAB) on the progress of the feedback since the last meeting.

### **Current Position**

3. The IASG raised concerns about how they were supported and utilised by the Force. Following discussions, several changes have been introduced to reaffirm the value of and reinvigorate the relationship between the IASG and the Force. These changes are summarised below.

### **Purpose/Governance:**

- In December 2022, the Force moved the IASG Portfolio from Local Policing to Professionalism & Trust (P&T), which now oversees all administrative support for the IASG. Since the change in management, P&T has supported the next IASG meeting, which took place on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 attended by six IASG members. In addition, the Force was represented by the Operations & Security Commander, the Head of P&T, the Superintendent for Local Policing, the Superintendent for Serious & Organised Crime, and the Equality & Inclusion Manager for the Force. Positive feedback has been received about the meeting from the IASG members that attended.
- P&T has appointed a Single Point of Contact to liaise with the IASG. In addition, a monthly meeting now takes place with the Head of P&T and the IASG Executive to raise and discuss any issues.

- The Force and IASG have updated the role description of the IASG:
  - *The Independent Advisory and Scrutiny Group (IASG) is made up of a diverse group of people independent of the police service from differing communities. They monitor, observe and advise on aspects of policing that affect the broader community*
  - *It:*
    - *advises the City of London Police on critical incidents*
    - *advises on City of London Police policy and high impact issues concerning black and minority communities e.g. Stop and Search, recruitment and retention of officers.*
    - *advises on operational and tactical policing issues*
    - *interacts with the community to help promote an inclusive approach*
- Stop & Search is subject to community scrutiny under the Best Use of Stop and Search scheme (BUSSS), the Code of Practice for stop and search, and the College of Policing's Authorised Professional Practice (APP). The aim of BUSSS, launched in 2014 by the Home Office and the College of Policing, is to achieve greater transparency and community involvement in the use of stop and search and increase public confidence that it is used fairly, lawfully and effectively. The Force and IASG have agreed a revised focus on Stop and Search scrutiny, to ensure legal and compliance standards are met.

### **Defining IASG Involvement**

- Work is on-going with the IASG to define future involvement and engagement in Force activities. The IASG has created sub-groups for specific subject matters such as, Counter Terrorism, Violence & Acquisitive Crime, Fraud, Vulnerable People, Public Order, Road Policing, Cyber Crime, Hate Crime & Diversity & Inclusion, Stop & Search, and Use of Force, to assist with this process. In support of this, the Force has allocated an individual as Force Liaison for each IASG sub-group.

### **Feedback on IASG reports**

- The IASG highlighted that a number of reports prepared for the Force were not responded to. These have now been reviewed and shared with the appropriate areas in the Force. Moving forward P&T will agree the timescales for feedback on IASG reports with the IASG. The IASG single point of contact (SPOC) will monitor the return rates and timescales for all reports.

### **Recruitment and Vetting**

- The IASG currently has 10 members, 6 of which are active. The recruitment of new IASG members, supported by P&T, will shortly commence.
- P&T are currently reviewing the vetting status of all IASG members to ensure vetting compliance to Non-Police Personnel Vetting (NPPV) 2. In addition, the

vetting level of all IASG members is in the process of being enhanced to include Counter Terrorist Check (CTC) level, allowing the IASG access to police material, up to Official-Sensitive.

## **Conclusion**

4. The Force is continuing to support the IASG and build on the refreshed relationship.

## **Contact:**

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